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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PPS

DATE: 18 April 1957

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #16

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Final arrangements now are being made to introduce to the out-of-hours program courses in German, French, and Polish. We hope to begin these, with non-OTR staff employees, about 15 May.

2. In response to a request from EE, we now are trying to work out plans to conduct an intensive course of about six months' duration in Hungarian. If the FSI cannot handle, we will try to conduct it ourselves.

3. Periodic meeting of Area Advisory Committee on 10 April agreed on procedures for circulating a sanitized long-term schedule of area courses to the other IAC Agencies. Plan had been already discussed with [redacted] advised [redacted] and [redacted] on their forthcoming Americans Abroad courses, scheduling a special meeting for this purpose a week later.

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4. Probably the largest audience ever to have assembled voluntarily in an Agency auditorium did so on 10 April when approximately 500 persons filled the R&S hall for the illustrated lecture by Justice William O. Douglas on the "Russian Journey" which he made in 1955. Twice that number would have been on hand--judging from the requests that poured into LAS--had the hall been large enough to accommodate them. The extent of the interest shown seems attributable primarily to the drawing power of Mr. Douglas himself and secondarily to the combination of subject matter and slides.

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[redacted] who handled the program, has commented most favorably to Mr. [redacted] on the cooperation given him by many persons within and outside OTR. Especially helpful were ever-reliable [redacted] and [redacted]. The latter provided so many little services so expeditiously and so "matter-of-factly" that he was more of a help than he probably realized. [redacted] displaced from his lecture room, paid his displacer back in a much better coin. Other names clamor for recognition: Misses [redacted]

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Three recommendations are in order: (1) the inability of Mrs. Douglas in the projection booth to hear her husband's commentary seems to underscore the need for an amplifier there; (2) something should be done to cover the windows fully for such showings; and (3) the interest shown in this lecture would seem to favor the establishment of a series of such programs.

5. As a special, extraordinary activity, we are planning to provide JOT [REDACTED] with limited training in Serbo-Croatian. As an alternative to commercial schools, we have created a special supervised program for him internally.

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6. Discussions are continuing with FE with a view to gaining FE release to OTR of two highly qualified instructors in Chinese badly needed for development of the Chinese language program to meet Agency requirements.

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7. [REDACTED] of the FSI came to discuss FY 1957 contract with [REDACTED]

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8. Preliminary arrangements have been made for ORR to enter [REDACTED] area-language program with a view to training at [REDACTED]

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9. [REDACTED] of Security has discussed with [REDACTED] possibility of his attending the [REDACTED].

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10. [REDACTED] has been endeavoring to make arrangements to provide [REDACTED] of OTR with an introduction to Vietnamese. We have located a no-cost-to-us speaker and have obtained the new ACLS course. Training will begin as soon as we have a meeting place.

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11. The five-week Regional Survey: Economic Geography of the Soviet Bloc course ended on 12 April with six students, who completed the requirements of the course in an outstanding manner. [REDACTED] reports the course was designed to give the students the basic geographic factors as they affect the economic development of the Soviet Bloc, which included the USSR and its European Satellites.

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12. The ten-week Regional Survey: Southeast Asia course was completed on 11 April with a total of 13 students. [REDACTED] reports that a total of 25 guest speakers participated in the course, and because most of them are located on country desks working with these areas day in and day out, the class members were able to receive official information which was not only current but which had been expertly evaluated and passed on objectively.

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